

TOP SECRET

1048

GENERAL

1. US initiates tripartite talks on Austrian Army--The Department of State has instructed US Embassy London to raise with the British and the French the question of reaching a firm tripartite agreement on all aspects of the establishment of the Austrian Army. The Department feels that each western power, to the extent possible, should make physical contributions to the proposed army. Meanwhile, the Department is initiating tripartite representations to Austria to point out that the Austrians must assume basic responsibility for their own internal security and that any available funds cannot be allocated until the Austrian government has submitted a satisfactory plan for the army, which has been agreed to by both major political parties. The Department also believes that after four-power agreement has been reached on the military clauses of the treaty, an approach can be made to the USSR to secure four-power approval for implementing these clauses prior to the effective date of the treaty.

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 13/3/78
 By: [Redacted Box]

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CONFIDENTIAL
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State Dept. review completed